

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NIC-01 SAJ-01 AEC-11 AID-20

CEA-02 CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FEA-02

FPC-01 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01

PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01 SCI-06 SPC-03 SS-20 STR-08

TRSE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01 /188 W

----- 016336

R 070440Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7064

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CONFIDENTIAL KABUL 1404

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AF, UR

SUBJECT: GOA COMMERCE MINISTER TO SOVIET UNION

REF: (A) KABUL 1077; (B) TEHRAN 1231 (NOTAL.)

1. EMBOFF LEARNED TODAY THAT GOA MINISTER OF COMMERCE MOHAMMAD KHAN JALLALAR WILL LEAVE FOR OFFICIAL VISIT TO SOVIET UNION ON MARCH 14. PURPOSE OF VISIT IS TO SIGN NEW BILATERAL TRADE AGREEMENT RECENTLY CONCLUDED WITH SOVIETS IN KABUL (REFTEL A). DURATION OF VISIT NOT RPT NOT KNOWN.

2. ACCORDING GOA MINCOMMERCE OFFICIAL, MINISTER ALSO WILL HAVE NEGOTIATING AUTHORITY TO CONCLUDE NEW TRADE AGREEMENT FOR EXCHANGE OF AFGHAN NATURAL GAS FOR SOVIET REFINED PETROLEUM PRODUCTS. PRESENT BILATERAL AGREEMENT FOR SALE OF NATURAL GAS WAS SIGNED IN 1967 AND DOES NOT RPT NOT EXPIRE UNTIL 1985. HOWEVER, JALLALAR WILL BE PREPARED TO ATTEMPT RENEGOTIATE AGREEMENT WITH HIGHER

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PRICE FOR NATURAL GAS IN CASE SOVIETS DEMAND HIGHER PRICES FOR

GASOLINE AND DIESEL FUEL.

3. FOR TEHRAN: GOA APPRECIATED RECEIVING INFO ON IRANIAN NATURAL GAS PRICES AS REPORTED REFTEL B. ACCORDING GOA MINCOMMERCE OFFICIAL, WHO PARTICIPATED IN RECENT BILATERAL TRADE TALKS IN TEHRAN, AFGHANS BELIEVE GOI IS SEEING EVEN HIGHER PRICES FOR IRANIAN NATURAL GAS EXPORTS TO SOVIET UNION IN CY 1974. IF POSSIBLE GOA WOULD LIKE TO HAVE BALLPARK FIGURES FOR PRICE IRANIANS ARE SEEKING FROM SOVIETS. GOA MINCOMMERCE OFFICIAL ALSO AWARE OF QUALITY DIFFERENCES IN IRANIAN AND AFGHAN NATURAL GAS (7700 CALORIES PER 1000 CUBIC METERS FOR AFGHAN VS. 9500 CALORIES FOR IRANIAN). ON SEPARATE MATTER, EMBASSY INFORMED AFGHANS CONTEMPLATING PURCHASING ADDITIONAL 15,000 TONS GASOLINE AND DIESEL FUEL FROM IRAN THIS YEAR. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE CURRENT COST OF IRANIAN REFINED PETROLEUM PRODUCTS F.O.B. IRANIAN REFINERIES. IF ABOVE INFO AVAILABLE, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RESPONSE PRIOR TO MARCH 14.

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